



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -
- Wednesday, September 10, 2008 -

DPS Investigators suspect alcohol a likely factor with three, weekend Loop 202 fatal collisions *CHARGES FILED ON TWO OF THE COLLISIONS*

Investigating officers from the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) suspect alcohol impairment was a likely factor in three fatal collisions that occurred on Saturday, Sept. 06, 2008. The series of deadly collisions resulted in the deaths of Francisco Perez Cabrera, 43, of Phoenix, Ilse Moreno, 19, of Maricopa and Thomas Verdone, 20, of Scottsdale. The charges of manslaughter, aggravated assault, and leaving the scene of an injury/ fatal accident have been filed by DPS against Jessica L. Robinson, 23, of Gilbert and Brian Brubaker, 30, of Phoenix.

1. The first collision occurred on Saturday, Sept. 06, 2008, around 1:30 a.m. on the San Tan 202 in the area of milepost 33 eastbound near Elliot Road. This collision involved a Honda CRV and a full-size Chevy pickup/private street sweeper. The Honda was traveling eastbound on S.R. 202 in the far right lane when it came upon the street sweeper that was traveling at a slower speed. The driver of the Honda, Jessica L. Robinson swerved to avoid rear-ending the street sweeper, lost control and struck the front left corner of the truck causing it to spin clockwise. Both vehicles rolled over and came to rest off the road on the Elliot Road exit ramp. The driver of the truck, Francisco Perez Cabrera was deceased on scene. The truck's passenger, Sergio Romo 45, of Mesa was injured. Romo was wearing his safety belt and Cabrera was not. Robinson fled the scene on foot but was later located on Elliot Road just east of Ellsworth Road and was taken into custody by DPS officers.
2. The second collision occurred on Saturday around 7:15 p.m. on the San Tan 202. A Grey Dodge Charger was traveling westbound on the S.R. 202 in the center lane near Gilbert Road when the driver, Brian Brubaker, rear-ended a white 1994 Toyota pickup truck causing it to spin out and then roll over, coming to rest on the right side of the road. The Charger struck the median cable barrier and came to a stop. Witnesses reported the Charger was traveling above the posted speed limit prior to the collision. The driver of the truck, J.G. Galo, 20, was injured and transported to a local hospital. The passenger, Else Moreno, was partially ejected and declared deceased at the scene. Both Galo and Moreno were reported to have been wearing their safety belts. Brubaker fled the scene

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but returned shortly and was taken into custody by DPS officers. Brubaker was booked into the 4th Avenue Maricopa County Jail.

3. The third collision occurred at about 9:27 p.m. on S.R. 202 (Red Mountain). A Pontiac GTO was traveling eastbound, possibly in the left or center travel lanes near the Center Street Overpass, when the driver, for unknown reasons, lost control of the vehicle. The loss of control caused the vehicle to travel to the right, across the travel lanes, off the roadway onto the dirt shoulder where it struck a drainage ditch and a traffic control sign. The vehicle then rolled over and came to rest on the dirt shoulder. Witnesses reported that the Pontiac appeared to be traveling above the posted speed limit and may have been with three to four other vehicles, two of the vehicles were identified as a Bullet Bike style sports motorcycle and another Pontiac GTO. The vehicles may have been racing. The driver, Thomas Verdone, was declared deceased on the scene as a result of the trauma sustained from the collision impact.

DPS is hoping to speak with anyone who may have witnessed any of these vehicles prior to the collisions or witnessed the actual collisions. Witnesses should call DPS at (602) 223-2212.

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